

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6482

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 7345

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJ: SINGAPOREAN VESSEL SPRING HOUSE PROGRESS

1. THIRTY VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES, TO INCLUDE NINE WOMEN AND TEN CHILDREN, WERE RESCUED FROM THEIR SINKING CRAFT BY SUBJECT VESSEL OFF COAST NORTH BORNEO (EAST MALAYSIA), SPRING HOUSE PROGRESS, SINGAPOREAN-OWNED, THEN PROCEEDED TO PORT DICKSON, WEST COAST PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, WHERE MASTER PROPOSED REFUGEES BE DISEMBARKED.

2. DESPITE VIGOROUS REPRESENTATION MADE BEHALF REFUGEES BY UNHCR, MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES REFUSED PERMISSION TO LET REFUGEES LAND AFTER HAVING FOUND THEM TO BE PHYSICALLY FIT. VESSEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO DISCHARGE CRUDE OIL AT SHELL HETTY, PORT DICKSON, AND WILL DEPART MALAYSIAN WATERS THURSDAY 20 JULY.

3. SPRING HOUSE PROGRESS WILL PROCEED TO STRAITS OF MALACCA WHERE, IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED BY VESSEL'S OWNERS AND UNHCR, SHE WILL RENDEZVOUS WITH A SECOND, INDONESIAN- BOUND VESSEL WHICH WILL DISEMBARK REFUGEES IN JAKARTA WITHIN ONE WEEK FROM TODAY.

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4. BOT UNHCR AND SINGAPOREAN OWNERS SPRING HOUSE PROGRESS AGREED THAT SINGAPORE IS LAST PLACE VESSEL SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DISEMBARK REFUGEES. UNHCR ANTICIPATES NO DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING TEMPORARY ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES IN JAKARTA.

5. COMMENT: PORTS WEST COAST PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

TRADITIONALLY UNRECEPTIVE TO THOSE VERY FEW BOAT
REFUGEES WHO HAVE ARRIVED THERE. MALAYSIAN REFUSAL TO
ACCEPT 30 REFUGEES FROM SUBJECT VESSEL IS NOT AN INDICATOR OF
OVERALL GOM ACCEPTANCE ATTITUDE, WHICH REMAINS RELATIVELY
POSITIVE TOWAR THOSE ARRIVALS ON THE EAST COAST.

6. FOR JAKARTA: IF REFUGEES FROM SPING HOUSE PROGRESS
DISEMBARKED IN JAKARTA, WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF THEY
HAD BEEN REFUSED ASYLUM ANYWHERE ELSE IN REGION BEFORE
ARRIVING PORT DICKSON.
MILLER

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